

UNCLASSIFIED

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O R 061446Z JUL 79  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1385  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
USUN NEW YORK 0986  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): B-1

Declassify: (X) In Part ( ) Full

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Date 4/13/01 Declassify on --- Reason 25X

SECTION 1 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 5458

E.O. 12065 XDS-1&4 7-6-09 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M  
TAGS SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - JULY 6, 1979

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5307

1. (U) SUMMARY: THE PRINCIPAL HUMAN RIGHTS EVENT THIS WEEK WAS MINISTER OF INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF JUNE 29, COVERED SEPTEL, AT WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THAT 1,723 PERSONS ARE NOW BEING HELD UNDER PEN AND AT WHICH HE CITED OTHER PEN STATISTICS. THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY IS CONCERNED THAT ITS RECENT DISAPPEAREDS LIST APPARENTLY WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED--NOT FOR A WHILE, AT LEAST. MRS. PERON'S SLOW MOVING COURT CASE PASSED A LANDMARK. CONTROVERSY OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPULSORY MORALS-PATRIOTISM COURSE STILL CONTINUES. TRIALS OF PERSONS HELD FOR LONG PERIODS CONTINUE TO BE PUBLISHED.  
END SUMMARY.

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2. HARGUINDEGUY'S JUNE 29 LIST -----

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CLOSE CHECK OF EMBASSY RECORDS REVEALS THAT EIGHT PERSONS LISTED AS "CEASED PEN" FIGURED EARLIER AS "DISAPPEARED" IN OUR ACCOUNTING, AND A CHECK WITH THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY CONFIRMED THAT THESE PERSONS WERE NOT ACKNOWLEDGED AS PEN PRISONERS UNTIL THEY APPEARED AS PEN DELETIONS. THREE OF THE CASES WERE OF PERSONS WHO DISAPPEARED IN CORDOBA, WHILE TWO WERE CASES FROM TUCUMAN. WE HAVE NO RECORDS REGARDING THE OTHERS. FOUR OF THE EIGHT WERE PASSED TO SUPERVISED FREEDOM (DE LA VEGA, LUIS CARMELO; SANCHEZ DE FERRARO, MARIA THERESA; AHUMADA, MARIA CRISTINA; OLMOS, JORGE E.) WHILE OTHERS WERE REMOVED FOR RELEASE OR POSSIBLY UNDER CHARGES (CUELLO, VICTOR VICENTE; CANO, ANTONIO; REMIREZ, MIGUEL ANGEL; FLORES, OSCAR ALJANDRO). THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY IS TAKING A POLL OF EMBASSIES TO VERIFY HARGUINDEGUY'S FIGURES FOR PERSONS OPTIONED TO THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

3. [REDACTED] REAPPEARANCE OF MARIA ANGLICA PEREZ DE MITFLIK -----  
MRS. MITFLIK VISITED THE EMBASSY ON JUNE 29 TO REPORT HER "REAPPEARANCE" AND TO INQUIRE WHETHER THE EMBASSY HAS SOME WORD OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF HER HUSBAND, SAUL MITFLIK. BOTH WERE ABDUCTED ON AUGUST 10, 1978 -- SHE FROM HER WORK AT A BANK AND HE FROM THE CASEROS AREA OF BUENOS AIRES. MRS. MITFLIK REPORTED THAT BOTH SHE AND HER HUSBAND WERE HELD AT AN UNKNOWN DETENTION PLACE WHERE THEY WERE TORTURED. SHE THEN WAS TRANSFERRED TO AN ARMY REGIMENT IN LA PLATA "REGIMENT 7" SHE SAID), AND LATER WAS PASSED TO THE EIGHTH POLICE PRECINCT THERE. FROM THERE SHE WAS TAKEN TO UNIT 2 AT VILLA DEVOTO, WHERE SHE WAS HELD IN "COUNCIL OF WAR" STATUS UNTIL SHE WENT BEFORE A FEDERAL COURT JUDGE, WHOSE NAME  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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WAD RIVAROLA, WHO FREED HER ON MAY 8 BECAUSE OF LACK OF EVIDENCE IN HER CASE. SHE REPORTED THAT SINCE SEPTEMBER 11 OF 1978 SHE WAS TREATED "NORMALLY". MRS. MITFLIK LOST TRACK OF HER HUSBAND WHEN SHE WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE FIRST DETENTION PLACE. BOTH WERE ACCUSED OF BEING MEMBERS OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST COMMUNIST PARTY. UNTIL HER APPEARANCE HERE WE CARRIED MRS. MITFLIK AS A "DISAPPEARED." HER NAME WAS NEVER PUBLISHED ON A PEN LIST, NOR THE FACT OF HER RELEASE. WE HAVE NO NEWS OF HER HUSBAND.

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4. (U) VANGUARDIA MEMBERS FREED -----  
RELATIVES OF DETAINED AND DISAPPEARED MEMBERS OF THE  
PARTIDO VANGUARDIA (MAOIST SPLINTER PARTY) HAD REPORTED,  
EVEN BEFORE THE LIST OF 190 PERSONS DELETED FROM THE  
PEN WAS RELEASED JUNE 29, THAT APPROFMA  
CLY 35 MEMBERS  
OF THE PARTY HAD BEEN FREED FROM EXECUTIVE AND MILITARY  
COURT DETENTION RECENTLY. THE SOURCES STATED THAT  
ANOTHER 30 TO 35 VANGUARDIA MEMBERS WHO WERE ABDUCTED  
IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER OF 1978 HAVE STILL NO REAPPEARED,  
ALTHOUGH MILITARY SOURCES HAVE REPORTED TO SOME VANGUARDIA  
MEMBERS' FAMILIES THAT THEIR RELATIVES ARE ALIVE AND  
WELL. SOME VANGUARDIA MEMBERS REPORTED THAT THEY WERE  
HELD AT AN "ALOJAMIENTO" (A HOTEL FOR ASSIGNATIONS, IN  
LOCAL PARLANCE) BEHIND THE FEDERAL POLICE CANINE  
TRAINING CENTER. THE FAMILY MEMBERS REPORT THAT THEIR  
RELATIVES WERE TORTURED.

5. (U) ARGENTINE AUTHOR FREED -----  
THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD OF JULY 4 CARRIED AN EDITORIAL  
ENTITLED "MUST IT BE FOR SOMETHING?" ABOUT THE PLIGHT  
OF ARGENTINE AUTHOR AND EDITOR ANTONIO DE BENEDETTO.  
DI BENEDETTO HAS RECEIVED AN ARGENTINE LITERARY AWARD  
IN ROME FROM THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR, SPENT A YEAR AND  
A HALF IN PRISON UNDER PEN DETENTION, HAS BEEN RELEASED  
AND LEFT THE COUNTRY. THE HERALD EDITORIAL POINTED OUT  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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THAT HE HAD NEVER BEEN CHARGED DURING THE TIME OF HIS  
IMPRISONMENT; AND THAT "THE GOVERNMENTS SILENCE ABOUT  
THE WHOLE AFFAIR SUGGESTS THAT IT WAS ALL A GHASTLY  
MISTAKE". THE EDITORIAL WENT ON TO SAY THAT DURING HIS  
IMPRISONMENT, RUMORS ABOUNDED FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES  
WHICH BOILED DOWN TO "IT MUST BE FOR SOMETHING" AND  
THAT "FOR A LONG TIME EVEN MR. DI BENEDETTO'S FELLOW  
WRITERS HARBOURED SUSPICIONS ABOUT HIM SIMPLY BECAUSE  
THE GOVERNMENT WAS SO ADAMANT IN INSISTING THAT THERE  
[REDACTED]

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O R 061446Z JUL 79  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1386  
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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
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WERE GOOD REASONS FOR HIS DETENTION." THE EDITORIAL  
ENLARGED ON THE THOUGHT THAT THE ARGENTINE JUDICIAL  
SYSTEM HAS INDEED BROKEN DOWN WITH ARGENTINES NO  
LONGER HAVING CONFIDENCE IN THEIR OWN SYSTEM, AND THAT  
ALL PERSONS SHOULD BE ADJUDGED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN  
GUILTY, HAVE THEIR DAY IN COURT AND BE TRIED ON THE  
STRENGTH OF THE EVIDENCE, FOUND GUILTY OR RELEASED. IT  
ENDED BY NAMING OTHER LONG-TERM UNCHARGED DETAINEES--  
JACOBO TIMERMAN, JAIME LOKMAN AND FEDERICO VOGELIUS.

6. (U) COX ON MEET THE PRESS -----  
HERALD EDITOR BOB COX LEFT JULY 4 TO APPEAR ON MEET  
THE PRESS. MRS. HELEN AROCENA TRAVELLED WITH HIM ALSO  
TO APPEAR ON THE PROGRAM, THE MOTHER OF A DISAPPEARED  
BUT HERSELF NOT ACTIVE IN THE "THE MOTHERS" OR ANY OTHER  
HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION.

7. [REDACTED] THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY'S LIST STILL NOT PUBLISHED -----  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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PERMANENT ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED THAT NO  
NEWSPAPER IS WILLING TO PUBLISH ITS MOST RECENT LIST OF  
JUST MORE THAN 5,7000 NAMES OF THE "DOCUMENTED DISAPPEARED."

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(NOTE: IN A PRIVATE COMMENT AN ASSEMBLY MEMBER ADMITTED HIS UNCERTAINTY THAT CASES DATING FROM 1975-1976 CAN BE AS CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED AS CASES LISTED LATER. NOT ALL NAMES LISTED HAVE HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS INITIATED) ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH "PRENSA" TO PUBLISH THE LIST AS A PAID ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT WHEN MONEY WAS FINALLY COLLECTED (THIS TOOK TIME TO COLLECT) PRENSA'S OWNER-EDITOR BACKTRACKED AND TOLD ASSEMBLY MEMBERS THROUGH HIS SECRETARY THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE. HERALD EDITOR ROBERT COX, WHO HAD DECLINED TO PRINT THE LIST AS A PAID ANNOUNCEMENT BUT WAS CONSIDERING DOING SO AS A REGULAR NEWS ITEM, HAS SAID RECENTLY THAT THE LISTS PUBLICATION WAS NOT TIMELY. "CLARIN" AND "LA NACION" EARLIER HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE LIST EITHER AS NEWS OR PAID ANNOUNCEMENT. PRENSA PUBLISHED AN ASSEMBLY LIST SOME 13 MONTHS AGO AND THE HERALD GAVE IT COVERAGE.

8. [REDACTED] LEGAL ACTION CENTER FOUNDED ----  
A GROUP OF LAWYERS, HEADED BY AGOSTO CONTE MACDONALL AND EMILIO MIGNONE, HAVE OPENED, ON JULY 4, A LEGAL ACTION LAW FIRM IN BUENOS AIRES CALLED "CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS SOCIALES Y LEGALES"--"CESL". AN OFFICE HAS BEEN RENTED AND FURNISHED NEAR THE LAW COURTS IN CENTRAL BUENOS AIRES. TWELVE ATTORNEYS AND PARALEGALS HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO WORK IN THE CENTER TO HANDLE HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER TYPES OF CASES, SUCH AS ENVIRONMENT, TAXATION, AND CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS FOR WHICH IT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN LEGAL REPRESENTATION BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL UNPOPULARITY OF THE CASE. COMMENT: THE CENTER'S  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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FOUNDING WAS TRIGGERED IN PART BY THE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR LEONARD MEEKER IN EARLY MAY THIS YEAR, WHOSE OWN FOUNDATION HAS BEEN GRANTED AID FUNDS FOR ASSISTING HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. THE "CENTRO" HOPES TO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN FUNDS FOR ITS START-UP PERIOD FROM EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS. END COMMENT.

9. [REDACTED] CONCERN OVER PERSONS "IN REHABILITATION" -----  
A MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO EMBOFF OVER SEVERAL REPORTS THAT PERSONS ABDUCTED BUT THEN ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR

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FAMILIES, BECAUSE THEY WERE IN SPECIAL PLACES FOR REHABILITATION, HAVE BEEN OUT OF TOUCH NOW FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. REPORTS, THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER SAID, CAME FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES BUT HE KNEW PERSONALLY OF ONE CASE-- THAT OF SUSANA GONZALEZ DE WEISZ AND MARCELO WEISZ, WHOSE VISITS ALTERNATELY TO HIS FAMILY, THEN TO HERS, CEASED AT THE END OF JANUARY. VISITS WERE ARRANGED BEFORE THEY TOOK PLACE BY TELEPHONE CALLS FROM THE TWO PERSONS HELD, WHO WOULD REPORT THAT "UNCLE WILL BRING ME AROUND" AT A SPECIFIC TIME. THEIR LAST CALL WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT "UNCLE WILL BE ON VACATION NOW FOR SOME TIME, AND WE WON'T BE COMING." SPECULATION AT THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY IS THAT VISITS STOPPED AND TELEPHONE CALLS STOPPED IN PREPARATION FOR THE (NOW POSTPONED) VISIT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WHEN THE GOVERNMENT LEARNED THAT COMMISSION MEMBERS INTENDED TO "VISIT WITHIN TEN MINUTES" ANY PLACE WHERE PERSONS MIGHT BE HELD. HARGUINDEGUY ALLUDED TO PERSONS BEING HELD WHOSE NAMES COULD NOT BE REVEALED BECAUSE OF PROBABLE MONTONER OR ETALIATION IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUNE 29. AS YET THERE IS NO WAY OF SUBSTANTIATING ANY THEORY OF WHAT MIGHT IN FACT HAVE HAPPENED TO THE "REHABS".

10. [REDACTED] ABDUCTION OF JORGE SALVADOR GULLO -----  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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MEMBERS OF THE HRO FAMILIARES DE DESAPARECIDOS Y DETENIDOS CONFIRMED TO THE EMBASSY THAT MR JORGE SALVADOR GULLO (STATE 130688) DISAPPEARED ON OR ABOUT APRIL 25, 1979. REPORTEDLY MR. GULLO, AN ARGENTINE OF ITALIAN ORIGIN WHOSE BROTHER JUAN CARLOS HAS BEEN DETAINED SINCE 1975 FOR HIS ACTIVITIES IN THE JUVENTUD PERONISTA AND HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE MONTONEROS RETURNED RECENTLY TO ARGENTINA TO INVESTIGATE THE DISAPPEARANCES. FDD SOURCES BELIEVE THAT JORGE GULLO WAS IDENTIFIED FOR ABDUCTION BY A SECURITY FORCE INFORMER AMONG THE FDD ACTIVISTS.

11. (U) SMATA LEADER DETAINED -----  
"LA NACION" REPORTED ON JUNE 29 THAT SMATA (AUTO WORKER UNION) LOCAL LEADER IN MAR DEL PLATA, ROQUE DI CAPRIO WAS DETAINED ON JUNE 25 AND PLACED UNDER PEN,

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PRESUMABLY FOR HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE RECENT WORK STOPPAGE.  
THE BUENOS AIRES CHAPTER OF SMATA HAS CALLED  
FOR HIS IMMEDIATE RELEASE. DI CAPRIO WAS A MEMBER OF  
THE 1978 WORKERS DELEGATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR  
CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

12. (U) MRS. PERON'S LEGAL PROBLEMS -----  
FORMER PRESIDENT ISABEL PERON AND THREE OTHER PERONIST  
OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN PROVISIONALLY CLEARED OF CHARGES IN  
REGARD TO THE ISSUANCE OF 149 "SOLIDARITY CRUSADE"  
CHECKS. THE RULING WAS PROVISIONAL BECAUSE TESTIMONY  
HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED BY THREE OTHER RANKING PERONIST

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OFFICIALS WHO ARE IN HIDING ABROAD. INVESTIGATIONS  
CONTINUE ON ANOTHER TEN CHECKS, INCLUDING THE FAMOUS  
"PRESIDENTIAL CHECK", ALLEGEDLY WITHDRAWN FROM THE  
PERONISTS' CHARITY FUND TO PAY A BEQUEST FROM THE PERON  
ESTATE TO HIS SECOND WIFE EVITA'S SISTERS. PROVISION  
SEYNALLY  
CLEARED BY FEDERAL JUDGE NORBERTO ANGEL GILLETTA WERE  
MRS. PERON, NORMA LOPEZ REGA DE LASTIRI, FORMER CORDOBA  
GOVERNOR ANTONIO BRUNELLO AND FORMER ECEONOMY MINISTER

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CELESTINO RODRIGUEZ. ALSO PROVISIONALLY CLEARED WERE FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER ANTONIO BENITEZ, FORMER JUSTICE UNDERSECRETARY JOSE CARRO AND FORMER TECHNICAL SECRETARY JULIO GONZALEZ OF CHARGES OF ABETTING MRS. PERON IN ILLEGALLY SIGNING THE "PRESIDENTIAL CHECK".

13. (U) MORE SENTENCES FOR PRE-JUNTA SUBVERSIVE CRIMES -----

THE ARGENTINE PRESS ON JULY 4 AND 5 CARRIED ARTICLES  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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ON THE SENTENCING OF AUGUSTO FELICIANI AND JUNA CARLOS SOUZA SURDO, WHO WERE SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS AND EIGHT MONTHS IN PRISON FOR WRITING GRAFFITI ON THE WALL OF A TOILET IN A BAR ON CARLOS PELLEGRINI IN FEBRUARY, 1975. THEY SPRAY PAINTED "THE FIFTH COMPANY OF THE MOUNTAIN WILL TRIUMPH" (THE QUINTA COMANIA DEL MONTE TRIUNFARA) ALONG WITH THE INITIALS "ERP" AND THE STAR ASSOCIATED WITH THE ERP MOVEMENT. THEY WERE ARRESTED SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING THE BAR ON FEBRUARY 22, 1975 ON A COLECTIVO BUS, THE SPRAY PAINT AND SOME PROPAGANDA MATERIAL WAS FOUND IN A BAG ON THE BUS. THE JUDGE REDUCED THE SENTENCE TO TWO YEARS IN FELICIANI'S CASE, AFTER HE HAD APPEALED IT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT TIME ALREADY SERVED.

14. (U) HROS REQUEST EXPLANATION OF THE VIOLA SPEECH -----  
THE JULY 4 BUENOS AIRES HERALD AND "LA NACION" CARRIED STORIES ABOUT A NOTE WRITTEN TO ARMY CINC GENERAL VIOLA N JUNE 29 BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE, JOINTLY, REQUESTING CLARIFICATION OF THE TERM "ABSENT FOREVER" ("AUSENTES PARA SIEMPRE") USED IN HIS ARMY DAY SPEECH. THE NOTE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LEAGUE HAD COMPILED A LIST OF 5,465 MISSING PERSONS WHO WERE ALL ABDUCTED FROM THEIR HOMES, THEIR PLACES OF WORK OR IN THE STREET, BY ARMED GROUPS... "WITH ABUNDANT PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WHO ACTED WITH THE OPERATIVE SUFFICIENCY OF THOSE WHO EMPLOY PUBLIC ENFORCEMENT..." "IN CONCLUSION THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS ASK FOR 'PRECISE' INFORMATION SAYING THAT 'THE VALUE OF LIFE IS ABOVE ANY OTHER CONSIDERATION..."

15. [REDACTED] RED CROSS ACTIVITIES -----

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THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONTINUES ITS ACTIVE  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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POLITICAL PRISONER PROGRAM IN ARGENTINA. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] B-1  
[REDACTED] HAVE NOTED THAT THE NEW PRISON  
CONDUCT REGULATIONS (SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT IN LATE  
APRIL) ARE BEING PLACED INTO EFFECT. THIS HAS BROUGHT  
A LIBERALIZATION TO THE VERY TOUGH PRISON REGIME AT THE  
MAXIMUM PRISON FACILITY AT RAWSON. [REDACTED] HAS B-1  
RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THID CORPS COMMANDER MENENDEZ  
STATING THAT ALL PRISONERS BEING HELD WITHIN HIS ZONE WILL  
BE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW REGULATIONS. [REDACTED] B-1  
[REDACTED] IS CONCERNED HOWEVER THAT IN SOME PRISONS SUCH  
AS VILLA DEVOTO AND LA PLATA, WHERE PRESENT PRACTICES  
ARE IN SOME WAYS MORE FAVORABLE THAN THOSE OUTLINED  
IN THE NEWLY ISSUED REGULATIONS, THAT THERE MAY BE A CUT-  
BACK IN AMENITIES OFFERED TO DETAINEES. DURING A CON-  
VERSATION WITH EMBOFFS ON JULY 2 [REDACTED] B-1

[REDACTED] SAID THAT HIS PRINCIPAL CONCERN OF  
THE MOMENT IS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF PRISONERS,  
WHO ALTHOUGH ENJOYING BETTER PHYSICAL CONDITIONS STILL  
HAVE TOO LITTLE WORK TO DO AND TOO LITTLE TO OCCUPY  
THEIR MINDS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TROUBLESOME AT THE  
NEW CASEROS PRISON, WHERE FACILITIES FOR LONG TERM  
PRISONERS ARE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT.

16. (U) VOGELIUS' CHILDREN PETITION PRESIDENT VIDELA  
FOR HIS RELEASE -----

THE JULY 4 BUENOS AIRES HERALD AND "EL DIA" CARRIED  
STORIES ABOUT FEDERICO VOGELIUS, FORMER PROPRIETOR AND  
PUBLISHER OF THE LEFTWING INTELLECTUAL MAGAZINE "CRISIS."  
THE CHILDREN OF VOGELIUS (NOW RESIDENT WITH  
THEIR MOTHER), ALONG WITH THEIR TEACHERS AND FELLOW  
STUDENTS, HAVE RITTEN LETTERS TO PRESIDENT VIDELA  
REQUESTING THE RELEASE OF THEIR FATHER. MR. VOGELIUS  
WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IN JANUARY 1978 AFTER ESCAPING  
FROM KIDNAPPERS DEMANDING A LARGE RAMSOM FOR HIS  
RELEASE. HE HAS BEEN CLEARED, ACCORDING TO THE HERALD  
ARTICLE, BY A MILITARY TRIBUNAL OF ANY CONNECTION WITH  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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SUBVERSION. HIS MAGAZINE, CRISIS, WHICH HE CLOSED DOWN SHORTLY AFTER THE MILITARY TAKEOVER IN 1976, ALSO HAS NEVER BEEN CONDEMNED BY THE CURRENT REGIME. MR. VOGELIUS IS CURRENTLY UNDER DETENTION IN A HOSPITAL FOLLOWING A HEART ATTACK.

17. (U) HERALD SPEAKS OUT ON JOURNALISTS; OTHER NEWS ON THE PRESS -----  
OF TWO HERALD EDITORIALS THIS WEEK, ON CONTRASTED THE DISPLAY OF LOCAL ATTENTION GIVEN THE KILLING OF BILL STEWART IN NICARAGUA WITH "THE RELATIVE LACK OF CONCERN FELT FOR THE MORE THAN 100 ARGENTINE JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS... WHO HAVE EITHER LOST THEIR LIVES OR 'DISPEARED' HERE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS..." THE OTERH EDITORIAL, WHICH DISCUSSED THE STATUS OF MRS. PERON, NOTED THAT SHE "IS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN MANY HUNDREDS, POSSIBLY THOUSANDS, OF PEOPLE IN ARGENTINA WHO ARE BEING HELD IN PRISON WITHOUT ANY CHARGES WHATSOEVER AGAINST THEM."  
ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE, THE ARGENTINE PRESS ASSOCIATION (ADEPA) INFORMED OF THE RELEASE OF THREE JOURNALISTS IN LA RIOJA WHO HAD BEEN CLARED BY THE COURTS. ONE WAS ARRESTED IN JUNE 1976, TWO IN DECEMBER 1977.  
CASTRO

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